United Nations A/73/656

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 165
Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Revised budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2016/17	$1,039,573,200
Expenditure for 2016/17	$1,028,134,900
Unencumbered balance for 2016/17	$11,438,300
Appropriation for 2017/18	$910,941,200
Expenditure for 2017/18	$908,264,400
Underexpenditure for 2017/18	$2,676,800
Revised proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2018/19	$727,522,700[a]
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	($2,000,000)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	$725,522,700

[a] Inclusive of authority to enter into commitments of $385,678,500 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/259 B (see para. 2 below).

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I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the revised budget of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Advisory Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 11 December 2018. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in his report on the budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/794), the Secretary-General submitted the original proposed budget for UNAMID of $782,590,500 gross for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, without pre-empting any decision that the legislative bodies might take on the outcome of a planned joint strategic review of the Operation's mandate (A/72/789/Add.7, paras. 12–13). The Committee recommended an amount of $771,356,900 gross for the maintenance of the Operation for that 12-month period (Ibid., para. 42). The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/259 B, noted the strategic assessment undertaken by the Secretary-General, and requested him to submit to it at the main part of its seventy-third session a revised budget proposal for 2018/19 reflecting the decisions that might be taken by the Security Council. In the same resolution, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in an amount not exceeding $385,678,500 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2018.

II. Revised budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

3. The mandate of UNAMID was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1769 (2007). The most recent extension of the mandate, until 30 June 2019, was authorized by the Council in its resolution 2429 (2018). In the same resolution, the Council, inter alia, took note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in their special report (S/2018/530), in which they presented a whole-of-system approach for Darfur, which includes a new mission concept with adjusted priorities for UNAMID and a transition concept in collaboration with the United Nations country team over a two-year time frame with a view towards the exit of the mission on 30 June 2020 and liquidation by December 2020, provided that there was no significant change in the security situation in Darfur and key indicators were fulfilled. Furthermore, in its resolution 2429 (2018), the Council requested the Secretary-General to provide, through a strategic review, by 1 May 2019, an assessment including a detailed and clearly benchmarked exit strategy for UNAMID.

4. The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of the Operation for the period 2018/19 are summarized in paragraphs 12 to 40 of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/73/488).

B. Resource requirements

5. The revised budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 amounts to $727,522,700, representing a decrease of $183,418,500, or 20.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. This reflects the combined effect

of proposed decreases under military and police personnel ($147,919,300, or 30.4 per cent) and civilian personnel ($40,423,900, or 16.5 per cent), offset in part by proposed increases under operational costs ($4,924,700, or 2.7 per cent). Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and III of the revised budget (A/73/488).

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), UNAMID started to downsize its military, police and civilian personnel in two phases during 2017/18, with the first phase concluding on 31 December 2017 and the second on 30 June 2018 (A/72/636, para. 10). The Committee notes the delayed impact of the downsizing during 2017/18 on the resource requirements for 2018/19.

1. Military and police personnel

Category	*Authorized for 2017/18*[a]	*Revised for 2018/19*[b]	*Variance*
Military observers	142	35	(107)
Military contingent personnel	8 593	4 015	(4 578)
United Nations police	960	760	(200)
Formed police unit personnel	1 540	1 740	200
Total	**11 235**	**6 550**	**(4 685)**

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength for 2017/18 on 30 June 2018 as a result of the phased downsizing.

[b] Represents the highest level of authorized strength for 2018/19 on 30 June 2019 as a result of the phased downsizing.

7. The revised resources for military and police personnel for 2018/19 amount to $338,394,100, reflecting a decrease of $147,919,300, or 30.4 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The decrease reflects reductions under military observers ($2.7 million, or 49.3 per cent), military contingents ($132.1 million, or 35.2 per cent), United Nations police ($12.5 million, or 26 per cent) and formed police units ($0.6 million, or 1.1 per cent), owing mainly to the repatriation of military and police personnel during the period 2017/18 and the planned repatriations during the period 2018/19 (A/73/488, paras. 127–130).

8. The planned deployment of military and police personnel is contained in the second table on human resources, in the summary of the revised budget for 2018/19 (A/73/488), with detailed drawdown data also provided in the supplementary information. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed revised budget reflected a drawdown schedule for military and police personnel in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2429 (2018).

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for military and police personnel.**

2. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved for 2017/18*[a]	*Revised for 2018/19*[b]	*Variance*
Posts			
International staff	712	531	(181)
National staff[c]	1 819	878	(941)
General temporary assistance positions	97	97	–
United Nations Volunteers	128	68	(60)

Category	*Approved for 2017/18*[a]	*Revised for 2018/19*[b]	*Variance*
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–
Total	**2 762**	**1 580**	**(1 182)**

[a] Reflects the approved staffing level as at 30 June 2018 as a result of the phased downsizing, as well as a reduction of four posts (1 international and 3 national) pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 72/259 B, i.e., posts vacant for 24 months or longer that had not been filled by June 2018.

[b] Reflects the revised staffing level as at 30 June 2019 as a result of the phased downsizing.

[c] Includes National Professional Officers and national General Service staff.

10. The revised resources for civilian personnel for 2018/19 amount to $203,846,100, reflecting a decrease of $40,423,900, or 16.5 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General indicates that the reduced requirements are attributable to the abolishment of posts during the period 2017/18 and the proposed abolishment of posts during the period 2018/19 (ibid., paras. 131-132). The proposals of the Secretary-General on vacancy rates are set out in paragraphs 115 and 116 of the revised budget for 2018/19 (A/73/488).

11. A total of 1,580 civilian posts and positions are proposed for 2018/19, comprising proposed staffing changes as follows (ibid., paras. 35, 64–66, 71, 97 and 106):

(a) Phased abolishment of 1,183 posts and positions (181 international, 942 national and 60 United Nations Volunteer) (see paras. 12–13 below);

(b) Establishment of 1 P-3 post in the Budget and Finance Section,[1] since the Secretary-General intends for UNAMID to benefit from an increased delegation of authority from decentralization as from 1 January 2019;

(c) Redeployment of 58 posts, mainly for the new state liaison functions (46) as part of a transition concept for the withdrawal of the Operation in collaboration with the United Nations country team;

(d) Reassignment of three posts to the new state liaison functions;

(e) Conversion of one Field Service post to a national General Service post (see para. 14 below);

(f) Reclassification of one P-4 post of Mission Planning Officer to a P-3 post (also redeployed from the Office of the Chief of Staff to the Office of the Deputy Joint Special Representative) to support the Deputy Joint Special Representative in transition-related activities.

Phased drawdown of civilian personnel for 2018/19

12. The Secretary-General indicates that, during the period 2018/19, 1,183 posts and positions are proposed for abolishment in three phases, comprising the abolishment of: (a) 384 posts and positions at the end of December 2018; (b) 88 at the end of March 2019; and (c) 711 at the end of June 2019 (A/73/488, para. 35). He also indicates that 211 of the 384 posts and positions proposed for abolishment at the end of December 2018 are part of the original proposal (of 293 posts abolished) for

[1] In the revised budget for 2018/19, it is indicated that the Secretary-General, in his report on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, proposed the abolishment of six Professional posts in the Field Budget and Finance Division of the Department of Field Support, to be re-established in a number of large, complex missions (A/73/488, para. 106).

the third phase of implementation of the civilian staffing review undertaken during the 2017/18 budget period.[2]

13. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the joint strategic review of the mission's mandate undertaken in April 2018 resulted in the further reconfiguration of the mission (see para. 2 above), which was requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2429 (2018). In line with the reconfiguration of the mission, UNAMID undertook another workforce review and planning exercise, which determined that, in addition to the 211 posts recommended for abolishment by 31 December 2018 as part of the third phase of the civilian staffing review of 2017/18 (see para. 12 above), 972 posts should be abolished by the end of June 2019, staggered in three phases. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the Operation had not yet abolished any posts in the period 2018/19, pending decisions of the General Assembly on the revised budget. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the drawdown of civilian personnel will proceed as swiftly as possible and as planned, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2429 (2018) and 2363 (2017).**

Nationalization of posts

14. It is proposed that one Field Service post be converted to a national General Service post, effective 1 January 2019, to leverage and strengthen the Operation's national capacity in the Rule of Law, Judicial System and Prison Advisory Section (A/73/488, para. 97). The Advisory Committee notes that this is the only post being proposed for nationalization by the Operation for 2018/19. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, in the formulation of its revised budget proposal, the Operation rigorously reviewed its staffing requirements to identify the proper skill sets and expertise suitable to support the Operation through that critical period of the reconfiguration. Owing to the functions and expertise deemed necessary to adequately support the reconfiguration exercise, the nationalization of posts was not deemed practical or effective at that stage of the Operation's life cycle. **Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/276 and 66/264, the Advisory Committee encourages the Operation to take further measures to nationalize more posts (see also para. 34 below).**

Temporary assignments of staff with a special post allowance

15. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that there were 12 staff members in UNAMID who were receiving a special post allowance for assuming the duties and responsibilities of a post at a higher level than their own. Seven of those arrangements will end by 31 December 2018, while the remaining five will be extended until June 2019, subject to the approval of the revised budget for UNAMID. The Committee notes from the information provided to it that, of the five extensions proposed until June 2019, four (2 P-4 and 2 D-1) have been temporary assignments for over one year, including one that was initially granted on 1 July 2016 and that, by 30 June 2019 will have been ongoing for three years.

16. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Board of Auditors, in its report on the United Nations for the year ending 2017, observed that the granting of a special post allowance to staff had not been limited to exceptional cases during the biennium 2016–2017 and that the United Nations had stated that the overuse of temporary job

[2] A civilian staffing review undertaken during the period 2017/18 resulted in the proposed three-phase reduction of posts and positions. The first phase resulted in the abolishment of 426 posts and positions effective 31 December 2017, while the second phase would result in the abolishment of 158 posts and positions on 30 June 2018. In the third phase, 293 posts and positions were proposed for abolishment effective 31 December 2018 (see A/72/794, para. 13).

openings was one of the main factors preventing stronger workforce planning in the Organization (A/73/5 (Vol. I). **The Advisory Committee trusts that all vacant positions will be filled expeditiously and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to complete the recruitment process for those posts presently encumbered by the use of special post allowances promptly (A/73/498, para. 20).**

17. **Taking into account its observations in paragraphs 13, 14 and 16 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for civilian staff.**

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

Apportioned for 2017/18	*Proposed under revised budget for 2018/19*	*Variance*
180 357 800	185 282 500	4 924 700

18. The revised resources for operational costs for 2018/19 amount to $185,282,500, reflecting an increase of $4,924,700, or 2.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General proposes decreases under all categories of expenditure, except increases under other supplies, services and equipment (including a provision of $15 million for other programmatic activities) (A/73/488, sect. II.A and para. 141). The Advisory Committee notes that, excluding the provision of $15 million, the revised estimates for operational costs would be $170,282,500, reflecting a decrease of $10,075,300, or 5.6 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18.

19. Concerning the increased requirements under other supplies, services and equipment ($23,650,400 or 79.6 per cent), it is indicated that the increases are attributable mainly to: (a) the provision of $15 million under other programmatic activities (see paras. 22–25 below); and (b) higher freight and related costs owing to the reconfiguration of the military and police components, the closure of 13 team sites/community policing centres and three sector headquarters and the restructuring of the Zalingei sector office to function as the Operation headquarters (A/73/488, para. 141; see also para. 26 below).

20. The Advisory Committee notes that, compared with the actual expenditures for 2017/18 and the first three months of the period 2018/19, some of the revised resources proposed under the expenditure subclass items appear to be high or not fully justified, for example:

(a) Government-provided personnel: revised resources of $278,700, compared with actual expenditures of $35,100 for 2017/18, with no expenditure as at September 2018;

(b) Maintenance services: revised resources of $2,234,700, representing an increase of $1,467,700, compared with an amount of $767,000 under the commitment authority for the first six months of the period 2018/19, with expenditure of $10,800 as at September 2018 (see also para. 29 below);

(c) Other freight and related costs: revised resources of $16,693,800, representing an increase of $11,170,000, or 202.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation of $5.5 million and expenditures of $3.2 million for 2017/18, with expenditure of $645,200 as at September 2018;

(d) Sanitation and cleaning materials: revised resources of $429,000, a decrease of $59,100, or 12.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. However, expenditure was at $281,300 for 2017/18 and $3,600 as at September 2018;

(e) Communications and information technology equipment: revised resources of $1,838,100, while no budgetary provision was provided for 2017/18. The Committee was informed that the provision was proposed for the planned replacement of obsolete items of equipment, comprising primarily network and telephony equipment that were no longer serviceable and beyond cost-effective repair.

21. The Advisory Committee received more information upon request, but was not convinced of the overall resource requirements proposed for 2018/19. **Taking into account the information in paragraph 20 above, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of $2 million under operational costs.**

Other programmatic activities

22. A provision of $19,882,500 is requested for other programmatic activities in the revised budget for 2018/19, representing an increase of $14,982,500, or 305.8 per cent, compared with the approved budget for 2017/18. The Secretary-General indicates that an amount of $15 million is requested to enable the United Nations country team, with the support of UNAMID, to undertake programmatic activities as part of the newly formed state liaison functions in accordance with the transition concept endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2429 (2018) (A/73/488, paras. 123–125).

23. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while the overall accountability lay with UNAMID, the division of labour and other implementation arrangements were regulated through memorandums of understanding. The United Nations country team was to implement projects through the state liaison functions in the States of North, South, East and West Darfur. The implementation of the transition concept was envisaged to ensure a gradual taking-over of the activities by the country team, and the timeline was as follows: (a) by the end of the first phase, at 31 December 2019, the country team was expected to have established a stronger presence in the States of North, South, East and West Darfur; and (b) during the second phase, from 1 January to 30 June 2020, the country team was expected to have matched the financial contribution of UNAMID peacekeeping financing, with additional resources made available from appeal events. The Committee was also informed that, taking into consideration the challenging environment in Darfur — including large numbers of internally displaced persons, a continuing economic crisis and the lack of a comprehensive peace agreement — the transition process required well-developed and tailored activities using the comparative advantages of UNAMID and the country team. The country team would benefit from the Operation's 10 years of experience and well-established networks in the region, as its limited presence on the ground, particularly with respect to human capacity, did not allow the country team on its own to maintain or increase activities in those areas where UNAMID would cease operations. Throughout that transition period, state institutions were expected to extend their presence and the delivery of services in Darfur.

24. The Advisory Committee was further informed, upon enquiry, that the amount of $15 million would be disbursed to the relevant country team implementing partners in line with the approved programme of activities through a structured vetting process similar to those in place for quick-impact projects. The Committee was also provided with a breakdown of planned activities by focus area (see table below).

Breakdown of planned activities of the state liaison functions

(United States dollars)

Focus area	*Implementing partners*	*Amount*
Resilience and livelihoods/durable solutions for the displaced population and host communities	UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF	7 340 000
Rule of law: police, justice and corrections	UNDP, FAO, UN-Women, WHO, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNFPA	4 465 210
Human rights promotion and capacity-building	UNDP	2 194 790
General operating expenses	Prorated distribution to United Nations entities in support of the co-location of 49 UNAMID staff in United Nations entities premises	1 000 000
Total		**15 000 000**

Abbreviations: FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; IOM, International Organization for Migration; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

25. Considering the insufficient information on planned projects in the revised budget, the Advisory Committee requested detailed information. **The Committee trusts that more information will be provided in the next budget proposal.** The information on the planned projects provided to the Committee is as follows:

(a) In the area of resilience and livelihoods/durable solutions for the displaced population and host communities, projects (ranging from $60,000 to $1.8 million each in funding) will promote social cohesion at the community level, address the provision of basic services for pastoralist and returnee communities, and support the self-reliance of returnees, particularly the most vulnerable groups, namely, internally displaced women;

(b) In the area of the rule of law, projects (ranging from $15,000 to $400,000 each in funding) will deal with capacity-building, infrastructure enhancement, policy development, legal aid and facilitating access to justice. The beneficiaries include law enforcement institutions, internally displaced persons, the local communities and populations in detention facilities;

(c) In the area of human rights, projects (ranging from $8,000 to $300,000 each in funding) will provide capacity-building for law enforcement agencies, strengthen the community protection mechanisms, support the strategy for transitional justice, provide training for local institutions to report on the universal periodical review mechanism and contribute to infrastructure enhancement.

Construction work on the proposed new headquarters in Zalingei

26. The Secretary-General indicates that the peacekeeping efforts of UNAMID will concentrate in the greater Jebel Marra area, encompassing 13 team sites, including the new Operation headquarters which will be relocated from El Fasher to Zalingei on 1 January 2019 (A/73/488, para. 15). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that construction activities to establish Zalingei as the new Operation headquarters had begun in July 2018 and it was expected that the construction work

would be completed by the end of January 2019. The Committee was also provided with information on the status of the construction activities (see table 2 below).

Table 2
Construction activities related to the establishment of Zalingei as the Operation headquarters

Item	*Activity*	*Start date*	*Expected completion date*	*Status*
Additional accommodations	Erection of additional prefabricated modules at battalion camp	July 2018	30 November 2018	90 per cent complete (in progress)
Refurbishment	Partitions and painting work	August 2018	31 August 2018	100 per cent complete
Additional offices and accommodations	Erection of additional prefabricated modules for offices and accommodations	September 2018	30 November 2018	90 per cent complete (in progress)
Refurbishment work	Remodelling of existing prefabricated modules into VIP accommodations	September 2018	4 October 2018	100 per cent complete
Water sanitation and environmental facilities	Water and wastewater installations, ablution units	September 2018	30 November 2018	75 per cent completed (in progress)
Additional prefabricated accommodations	Construction of additional prefabricated modules at battalion camp	December 2018	31 January 2019	Starting mobilization
Refurbishment work	Renovation of prefabricated modules at battalion camp	December 2018	31 January 2019	Starting mobilization

27. **Subject to its recommendation contained in paragraph 21 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.**

4. Other matters

Settlement of claims

28. With respect to the 15 death and disability claims pending as at 28 February 2018 (A/72/789/Add.7, para. 10), the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that 10 claims had since been paid and 2 rejected, with 3 pending. **The Committee welcomes the processing of the claims and trusts that the Operation will take the appropriate measures to settle all outstanding claims expeditiously.**

Recording of expenditures

29. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that negative expenditures were recorded for the period 2017/18, such as an amount of $43,500 under maintenance services. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, for the

period 2017/18, the Operation had incurred actual expenditures of $1,324,000 related to maintenance services, compared with the appropriation of $3,269,800. Owing to technical issues, however, those expenditures were recorded under various line items instead of under the maintenance services class. In addition, the credit balance showing for the period was a result of the recording of cost recoveries under the maintenance and services line item. The Committee was further informed that the Operation was taking the actions necessary to ensure that those issues were resolved as expeditiously as possible. **In its review of the peacekeeping budget performance for 2015/16, the Advisory Committee expressed the view that errors should be corrected before the closing of the accounts. The Committee again expects that Umoja should be leveraged to the greatest extent possible to ensure greater budgetary control and oversight (see A/71/836, paras. 34 and 50). The Committee considers that, at this stage of the implementation of Umoja, such errors would have been prevented and trusts that they will be avoided in the future.**

Key performance indicators

30. With respect to indicators of achievement 2.4.1 to 2.4.3 of the results-based-budgeting frameworks contained in section I.E of the revised budget document, the Advisory Committee notes that some relate to activities of national authorities. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that certain indicators of achievement can be improved in order to better reflect what could be achieved by United Nations entities and the activities for which they can be held accountable (see A/73/498/Add.5, para. 8).**

Vehicle ratios and write-off

31. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, at the end of the period 2017/18, the Operation had holdings of 1,406 light passenger vehicles, having written off 527 vehicles during the period. The Committee was also informed that the abolishment of posts proposed for 2018/19 would not affect the vehicle ratios indicated in the revised budget proposal as the proposed staffing changes had been factored into the calculation of the ratios for that period. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that, as at 31 October 2018, the Operation had 1,058 light passenger vehicles and that it planned to write off 473 of them, some of which had passed their life expectancy, by the end of the period 2018/19. The Committee was informed that the proposed revised budget for the 2018/19 period contained no requirements for the acquisition of vehicles, owing to the envisaged exit of the Operation in 2020. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Operation follows the relevant regulations and rules in writing off its vehicle holdings.**

5. Drawdown- and liquidation-related activities

Lessons learned

32. The Advisory Committee has made comments and recommendations with respect to the drawdown and liquidation processes of closed peacekeeping operations, the most recent operations being the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Committee recalls that the Board of Auditors made observations and recommendations with respect to the liquidation of UNOCI (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 461–491). In addition, the Board noted that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support were conducting, or planned to conduct, an after-action review of each liquidation process to ensure that lessons learned and best practices were identified and shared with other peacekeeping missions that were in drawdown or liquidation phases. The after-action review covered: (a) human resources separation and check-

out; (b) archiving and records management; (c) the disposal of assets; and (d) camp closure, with specific attention to environmental initiatives and challenges. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the experience gained in the liquidation of UNOCI, UNMIL and MINUSTAH provides an opportunity for determining best practices and institutionalizing lessons learned, where applicable. The Committee trusts that the guidance incorporated into the Liquidation Manual will be consistently applied going forward (see A/72/789, paras. 120 and 122).**

33. **The Advisory Committee expects that the Operation will avail itself of the experience gained in the course of the drawdown and liquidation of other peacekeeping missions, with a view to ensuring the timely and appropriate drawdown, liquidation and closure process in compliance with all applicable regulations and rules (see A/71/836/Add.16, para. 21, and A/71/676, para. 36). The Committee further expects that the Secretary-General will provide detailed information on the Operation's planning for liquidation activities, including the development of a liquidation plan comprising pre-liquidation activities and asset disposal plan, in his budget proposal for 2019/20.**

Capacity-building for national staff

34. In terms of capacity-building for national staff during mission drawdown, the Advisory Committee recalls that, during its drawdown process, UNMIL put in place programmes to support national staff in returning to the national labour market, such as annual job fairs and a certification programme in vocational skills for national staff from accredited local tertiary institutes in such areas as masonry, vehicle mechanics, electrical work, plumbing, warehouse functions and facilities management (see A/71/836/Add.16, para. 56). The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/259 B, recognized the importance of capacity-building for national staff during the drawdown phase of UNMIL and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard. **The Advisory Committee expects that the Operation will undertake capacity-building activities to support national staff during its drawdown and provide detailed information in the next budget.**

Environmental and clearance activities

35. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Board of Auditors also indicated that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support were revising the Liquidation Manual regarding the preparation and implementation of efficient and effective liquidation plans. The Board noted that the two departments were also developing an environmental annex for the Manual, which would include the "Guidelines for Environmental Clearance and Handover of Mission Sites of Liquidation" and a template for the handover certificate for sites handed back to the host nation or land owner (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 482 and 487–491; and A/72/839, para. 13).

36. The Advisory Committee further recalls that the Board of Auditors observed that contamination of water and soil had taken place below generators and fuel tanks, especially, but not exclusively, in the camps of troop- and police-contributing countries in missions that had been recently liquidated or downsized, such as UNMIL and UNOCI (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 429). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that several projects had been undertaken to ensure that UNAMID would leave behind a positive environmental legacy throughout the Operation area. As part of its greening initiative, the largest in the history of peacekeeping operations, over 150,000 trees had been planted in El Fasher, making it one of the greenest camp locations in the Operation. The initiative would leave behind over 350,000 drought-resistant tree species throughout the Operation area. Furthermore, the Operation had provided training to personnel from the Government in preparation for the eventual

handover of the Operation's fairly advanced water and wastewater treatment systems in El Fasher. Concerning measures taken to treat soil contamination at team sites, including leaks from generators and mechanic workshops, the Committee was informed that the Operation was working closely with the Headquarters environmental team to bio-remediate oil-contaminated soil. The soil was being remediated in situ or excavated and brought to the soil farm where prescribed procedures were implemented.[3]

37. **The Advisory Committee notes the progress that has been made on environmental management by the Operation. The Committee stresses that all future sites to be closed will be handed over in compliance with the guidance issued by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with respect to environment and waste management, the revised Liquidation Manual, including its environmental annex, and relevant environmental laws and practices of the host Government to avoid any environmental impact (see A/72/839, para. 14). In addition, the Committee continues to emphasize that efforts aimed at reducing the overall environmental footprint of UNAMID should be strengthened, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 69/307 and 70/286 (see A/72/789/Add.7, para. 38; A/72/636, para. 49; and A/71/836/Add.7, para. 64).**

III. Conclusion

38. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget (A/73/488). **Taking into account its recommendation in paragraph 21 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the revised resources be reduced by $2 million, from $727,522,700 to $725,522,700. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $725,522,700 for the maintenance of the Operation for the 12-month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/73/488)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (A/72/789/Add.7)
- General Assembly resolution 72/259 B
- Security Council resolutions 1769 (2007) and 2429 (2018)

[3] The process of bio-remediation involves mixing the contaminated soil periodically with quick-degrading organic material and detergents and allowing it to settle. The organic matter forces the breakdown of the oil into its basic components, which are water-soluble.